



fig.5 Ghana e-waste camp, Photo credit: Kai Löffelbein, <http://ewaste-trail.com/>, 2012

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“If ever somebody gets your hard drive, he can get every information about you from the drive, no matter where it is hidden.” a quote by a local citizen of Agbogbloshie, while scrolling through an archive of personal photos.

The year is 2009, the place, Agbogbloshie also known as Sodom and Gomorrah - one of the biggest e-waste camps in Ghana, listed by the U.S. State Department as one of the top sources of cyber crimes.(fig.5) Despite its bad reputation as a place of scam and e-mail schemes, it is a “sacred” place where hard drives, containing personal information are salvaged. Data from these drives is scattered, trashed and transacted as a commodity. With a little help from the locals, the retrieval/ recovery process or glimpsing what is on the drives is possible.

There are various discoveries/ disclosures: from intimate details of people's lives found in files left behind by the hard drives' original owners; to private financial data such as credit card numbers, account information, records of online transactions that the original owners may not have realized were even there; to even sensitive, multi-million dollar U.S. government contracts.

